• COLORADO RIVER •

AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

VOLUME XX FEBRUARY, 1953 NUMBER 2

Survey Finds Aqueduct In Excellent Condition

Following an eight-week shutdown for inspection purposes, Colorado River water, on February 21, was again flowing through the District's main aqueduct, assuring ample water supplies for the most populous portion of Southern California, even if another "dry" winter should follow the record-breaking cycle of seven successive subnormal rainfall years from 1944 through 1951.

According to General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, the giant water carrier, which extends from the District's Intake Pumping Station on the Colorado River to the terminal storage reservoir at Lake Mathews, was in excellent condition.

The reservoir had been filled to its 100,000 acre-feet capacity prior to the shutdown in order to permit uninterrupted water delivery to Los Angeles and the other cities served from that storage supply.

"District crews made a complete inspection of the 242 miles of main aqueduct and found it in wonderful condition," General Manager Diemer said. "My own personal observations of the tunnels, conduits, and canals confirm that finding. Only a few minor repairs were needed."

The aqueduct had been kept in continuous operation for five years preceding the shutdown because of the urgent need for maintaining a constant water supply to the San Diego area.

"Without Colorado River water it would have been necessary to ration water in that vital center of military installations and defense plants," Mr. Diemer said. "Last winter's rains eased the situation temporarily, but the disappointing rainfall so far this winter has made it imperative again for San Diego to begin taking large quantities of Colorado River water."

With the resumption of aqueduct op-

(Continued on Page Two)

Three members of Congress, Gracie Pfost (D) of Idaho, George H. Bender (R) Ohio, and Walter Rogers (D) Texas, completed a four-day inspection tour of Colorado River Aqueduct facilities this month. On their return to Los Angeles the Congressional Representatives met with District officials. (Above, left to right) General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, Congressman Rogers, Congressman Bender, Chairman of the Board Joseph Jensen, Congresswoman Gracie Pfost, Congressman Clair Engle (D) California, Congressman Norris Paulson (R) California, and the District's General Counsel James H. Howard.

Congressional Party Completes Four-Day Tour of Colorado River Aqueduct Projects

Three members of Congress, Gracie Pfost (D) Idaho, George H. Bender (R) Ohio, and Walter Rogers (D) Texas, were guests this month of the District on a four-day inspection tour of Colorado River Aqueduct facilities.

The Congressional representatives are members of the important House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee.

The party left Los Angeles by plane February 8 for San Diego.

After a brief aerial survey of the area they went on to El Centro where they were met by Evan T. Hewes, President of the Imperial Valley Irrigation District. The party then proceeded by automobile through the Imperial and Coachella valleys, where they inspected sections of the Coachella branch of the All-American Canal.

On the second day the party motored to the District's Gene Village on the Colorado River where they visited the Intake Pumping Plant and other District installations.

On the following day the group motored to Boulder City where they toured Hoover Dam and power plant. The Congressional party later met with Chairman of the Board Joseph Jensen, General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer and General Counsel James H. Howard.

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Vol. XX February, 1953 No. 2

Aqueduct Shutdown

(Continued from Page One)

erations, delivery of 58,000,000 gallons of water daily into the dry Santa Ana River channel was started to alleviate depleted underground water conditions in that area. Approximately 80% of Orange County, including all the cities of the county, now is within the boundaries of the District and entitled to Colorado River water.

Arrangements also have been made by the District to serve the Eastern Municipal Water District, embracing the Hemet-Perris area, through two main aqueduct connections that were installed during the shutdown period.

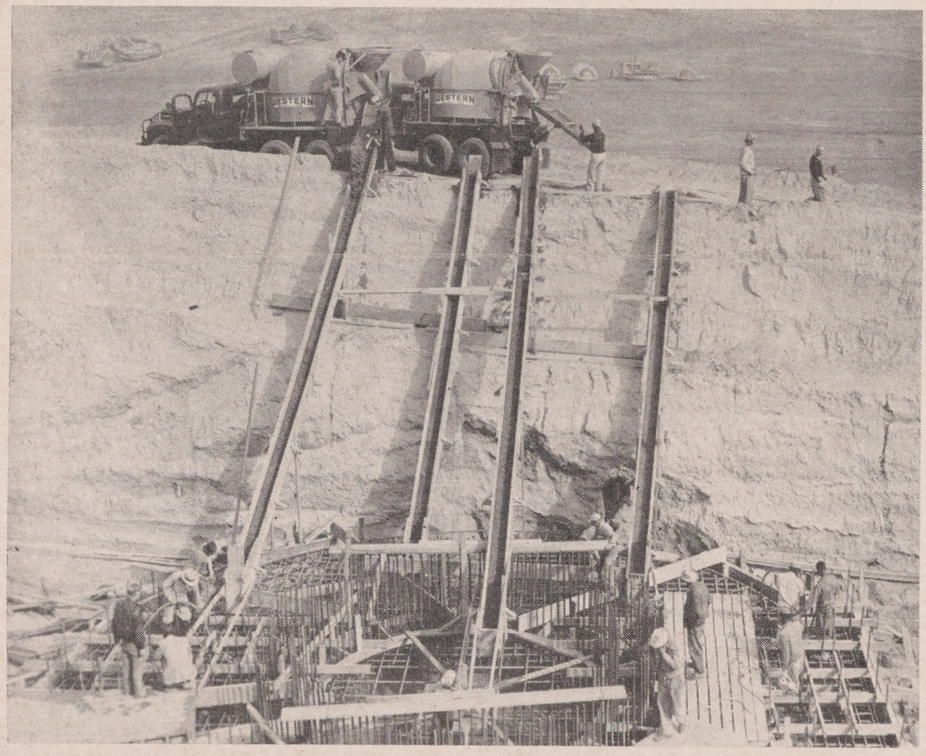
Sale of District Bonds Announced By Directors

The District's Board of Directors on February 10 announced the sale of $6,000,000 in Colorado River aqueduct bonds to the Bank of America National Trust and Savings Association and associates.

Chairman of the Board Joseph Jensen said proceeds of the bond sale are to be used to finance a part of the $52,000,000 aqueduct construction program now under way to meet the increasing need for Colorado River water by the 48 Southern California cities that are now members of the District.

The bid submitted by the Bank of America offered the highest premium of any of the seven bids that were received by the Water District Board, it was stated by Director Herman Nelson, Chairman of the Board's Finance Committee. All of the bids specified an interest rate of three per cent per annum. A premium of $191,529 was offered in the Bank of America bid, which Director Nelson said would yield a net interest rate of 2.8444%.

The assessed valuation of the District now is $5,551,316,653. Present investment in the Metropolitan aqueduct system totals approximately $210,000,000.



Work on the District's $52,000,000 expansion program continued at a rapid pace this month. (Above) the concrete foundation for the new Garvey Reservoir outlet tower is shown being poured.

For the RECORD

(The following items are noted from the report of General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, filed February, 1953, covering District operations for January, 1953.)

Colorado River — The water level in Lake Mead dropped 6.57 feet during the month to elevation 1162.56 feet on January 31, 1953, which was 13.50 feet higher than on January 31, 1952, and 38.54 feet below the 1952 maximum. Usable storage was 18,972,000 acre-feet, a decrease of 811,000 acre-feet for the month. At Hoover Dam the discharge averaged 19,700 cubic feet per second compared with 21,700 in December. At Lake Havasu the water level varied but slightly between elevation 445.8 feet and 446.4 feet. Average discharge at Parker Dam was 19,400 cfs compared with 20,900 in December, 1952.

Power and Pumping System — Since the aqueduct was shut down on December 26 for inspection and repairs, there was no pumping at any of the pumping plants during the month. Peak delivery to the Edison Company system was 159,500 kw. There was no delivery to the Parker system.

Distribution System — Water level in the San Jacinto reservoir on January 31 was at elevation 1498.82, representing storage of 995 acre-feet. Delivery to the San Diego aqueduct totaled 136.6 acre-feet. At Lake Mathews the water level at month's end was at elevation 1352.79, and storage was 95,369 acre-feet, a loss for the month of 4,713 acre-feet. At the Weymouth Softening and Filtration Plant, Colorado River water was softened from an average natural hardness of 301 ppm to 126 ppm at an average rate of 83.7 cfs.

Construction — On the Garvey-Ascot cross feeder, 3,960 linear feet of 60-inch pipe was cast, for a total to date of 19,104 feet or 64 per cent of the contract quantity; and 2,870 feet of pipe was installed for a total of 10,730 feet or 30 per cent of the contract quantity. At Cajalco tunnel, 696 feet was excavated, for a total to date of 1,445 feet or 19 per cent of the required length. At Garvey reservoir on the middle feeder, 66,000 cubic yards of earth were moved in January, for a total to date of 198,000 cubic yards. Work on the northerly half of the San Diego aqueduct by the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation was continued.

Purchasing — Purchase orders issued totaled 266, amounting to approximately $33,000.

CHAIRMAN JOSEPH JENSEN

Joseph Jensen Appointed To Colorado River Board

The appointment of Joseph Jensen to serve as a member of the Colorado River Board of California was announced February 4 by Governor Earl Warren.

Mr. Jensen succeeds the late Franklin Thomas as the District's representative on the Colorado River Board which is a state agency charged with protecting California's Colorado River water rights.

Mr. Jensen was first appointed to the District's Board of Directors in 1940 and has served as Chairman of the Board since January, 1949.

Arizona Reintroduces Bill Seeking Fantastic Project

In spite of the fact that the California-Arizona controversy over Colorado River water is now pending before the United States Supreme Court, Arizona has again introduced legislation in Congress seeking authorization of the fantastic Central Arizona Project.

Legislation asking Congress to approve the irrigation scheme was reintroduced in Congress February 13 by Representative Harold A. Patten (D) of Arizona.

The District and other California water agencies have consistently fought the Arizona Project on the grounds that it perils their long standing water rights on the Colorado River and also that the project, if approved, would cost the nation's taxpayers the staggering sum of $2,000,000,000.

Official inspection tour: State legistlators prepare to board bus at start of recent inspection trip of Colorado River Aqueduct facilities. (Left to right) Murray R. MacKall, Secretary of the Joint Committee on Water Problems; Assemblymen J. Ward Casey, Carley V. Porter and John B. Cook.

Southern California Again Faces Spectre of Drouth

Is the spectre of drouth again facing Southern California?

Here is the way it looked to C. C. Elder, the District's Hydrographic Engineer. He says:

"The rainy season which started out in the fall with a promise of substantial downpours has now dwindled to the point where as of the end of February the rainfall for the area now totals 7.88 inches in comparison to the normal mark for this time of year of 10.9 inches.

"The present dry spell comes upon the heels of the severe seven-year drouth during 1945-1951 which left the Southern California area with an accumulated deficit of 40 inches of rainfall. The one wet year that followed, 1951-1952, made up one quarter of this shortage, although due to the excessive drying out of watersheds during the long drouth, the 1952 run-off and ground replenishment was much less than generally expected."

According to Mr. Elder further analysis of rainfall figures indicate that as a result of the present 1953 drouth the much needed 1952 surplus is practically cancelled out.

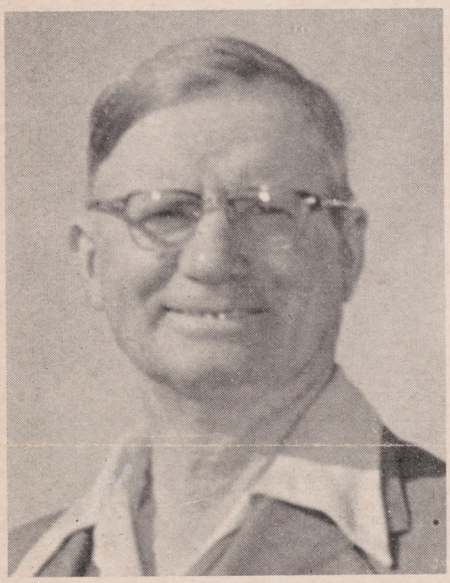
"The current drouth has already resulted in early irrigation of numerous farm and ranching areas with the result that in many of these localities wells are again being heavily pumped and water levels falling just at the season when they should be rising.

"The present season rainfall ratio of 72 per cent of normal in the Los Angeles area is a close average for all of Southern California, which varies from as low as 60 per cent of normal toward the South along the beaches to about 80 per cent for some foothill and mountain localities.

"Of particular interest to Southern California communities and areas dependent upon Colorado River water is the forecast of the 1953 runoff from the Rocky Mountain watershed which drains into the river.

"The most recent estimate of this runoff due to light snow packs is but 63 per cent of normal in comparison with 133 per cent last year. Fortunately the accumulated storage of more than 18,000,000 acre-feet of water in Lake Mead assures an ample water supply for all member cities and areas of the Metropolitan Water District" Mr. Elder stated.

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE



OWEN CRAWLEY

Owen L. Crawley, Division Foreman in charge of the District's Orange County Reservoir, received his twenty year pin in January. He was first employed by the District in October, 1931. However, he later resigned but subsequently was re-employed.

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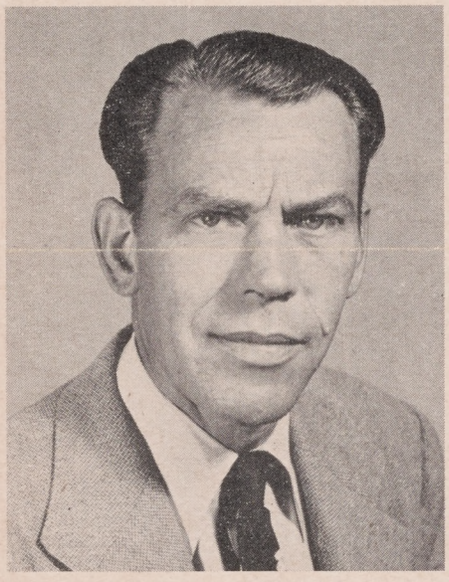

WILLIAM S. MERRITHEW

William S. Merrithew, Resident Engineer in charge of the Garvey Reservoir construction project, was first employed by the District in February 1933 and this month received his twenty year service pin.

District employees were reminded this month by General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer that the 1953 American Red Cross campaign for funds is now under way.

The Red Cross is supported entirely by voluntary subscriptions and is not a part of the Community Chest. It furnishes food, clothing and shelter in time of disaster as well as providing vitally needed blood plasma to the armed forces in Korea.

"I am sure the District employees will this year, as always, give generously to help maintain the important work of our American Red Cross," Mr. Diemer said.

* * * *

William (Bill) Winn, 13 year old son of Paul Winn, Engineer in the Electrical and Mechanical Division, has been named first clarinetist in the All Southern California High School Orchestra. He has also been selected to play a solo with the San Gabriel Valley Symphony in the Young Artists concert, April 12.

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Congratulations to Junior Engineer, Robert (Bob) Thompson, on the arrival of son Jeffrie Linn, whose birthday was January 30. Jeffrie tipped the scales at 7 pounds and 1 ounce.

* * * *

Marvin E. Stephens, Junior Engineer, passed out cigars, one of the better brands, in celebration of the birth of son, David Lee, who arrived Feb. 25 weighing 9 pounds 4 ounces.

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Our best wishes to Marjorie (Marge) Megica, Accounting Division, who was married on Valentine's Day to Charles Anderson in the Church of the Transfiguration. The couple spent their honeymoon in Palm Springs and Calexico.

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Marcel G. Ott, who joined the District in April 1946 as General Clerk in the Controller's office, has been named to the position of Deputy Treasurer.

The position was created by action of the District's Board of Directors at their regular meeting on February 12.

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Linda Jennifer Franz is the latest addition in the home of Robert Franz, Senior Draftsman. Linda was born February 12 and weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces.

LARS CHRISTIANSEN

Joining the select ranks of employees who have been with the District for twenty years is Lars Christiansen, Superintendent of Aqueduct Maintenance. He started with the District January 12, 1933, and received his service pin last month.

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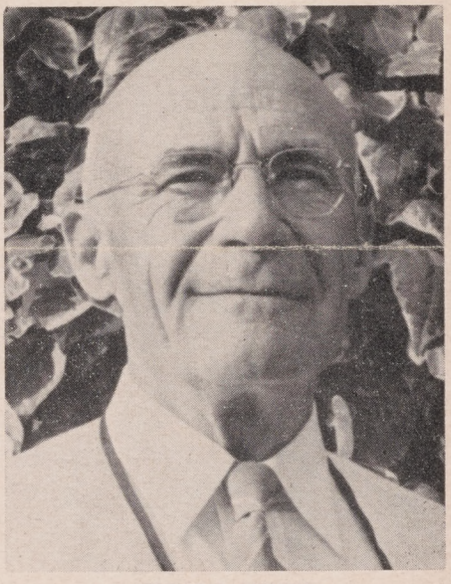

EDGAR A. RUSSELL

Edgar A. Russell, Senior Electrical Engineer who was first employed by the District way back in February 1933, is another aqueducter who this month is entitled to wear a twenty year service pin.